

STIMULUS WATCH: WEEK 53

\$497,117 in Stimulus Funds Spent on Studying Alcohol Consumption

- San Diego State University received nearly half a million dollars in taxpayer-provided Stimulus funds to research whether creative alcohol labeling and messaging could affect alcohol consumption habits. The study, “Disclosing Contents of Drinks: Experimental Test on Natural Consumption Behavior,” was awarded last September and will eventually lead to researchers testing messages on individuals at local bars.
- James Lange, lead researcher on the project, was “surprised” that his grant made a list of 100 wasteful Stimulus projects uncovered by Senator Tom Coburn and Senator John McCain this August, and it was “unclear” to him what their criticism was.
- According to the Obama Administration’s own Stimulus website, the purported goals of the \$862 billion bill were to “create new jobs” and “spur economic growth.” To date, the San Diego State project has created just 2.86 jobs. Meanwhile, California’s unemployment rate stands at 12.3%, well above the national average of 9.5%.
- Under the House Republican Stimulus Alternative, half a million taxpayer dollars would not be spent on studying the drinking habits of college kids and bar patrons. Instead, Republicans would have created twice as many jobs at half the cost. To learn how visit: <http://republicanwhip.house.gov/Jobs/>
- **Sources:**
<http://californiawatch.org/watchblog/san-diego-state-us-alcohol-research-example-stimulus-waste-senators-say-714>
www.recovery.gov
http://mccain.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore_id=07809d54-2616-4867-b6a0-e8ac3ceeed7

The Washington Watch Report is available on the House Republican Whip’s website:

<http://republicanwhip.house.gov/blog/wwindex.html>

It is updated weekly with new items of wasteful stimulus spending, a look at jobs created by the stimulus.